Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

O. E. S. 23.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

CIRCULAR NO. 13.

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 16, 1889.

DEAR SIR:

The call is coming, from many directions, for larger opportunities for consultation among station workers. The usefulness of this to specialists and its advantages to the stations in many ways are too evident to require urging. One disadvantage under which our stations labor is their isolation and the consequent lack of opportunity for conference and the interchange of experience which are so important to the highest efficiency of each and the co-operation of all. This subject was earnestly discussed at the last meeting of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. At the request of the station horticulturists there present, a committee on co-operative work in horticulture was appointed. Under a call issued by this committee, a meeting of station horticulturists was held in Columbus, Ohio, in June, from which excellent results have already appeared. The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, which has long been doing a most useful work, now contemplates the holding of its future meetings in connection with those of the Association of Colleges and Experiment Stations, in order to facilitate the attendance of station workers at both, and secure the closer relation that is so much to be desired. At the late meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science in Toronto, the entomologists present formed a club, which proposes to affiliate with the Association of Colleges and Experiment Stations, and, for that purpose, to meet in

connection with that body at its forthcoming session in Washington. At the same meeting of the A. A. A. S. the association of botanists appointed a committee, from whom the following communication has been received:

TORONTO, ONTARIO,
August 27, 1889.

To the Director of the Office of Experiment Stations,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

SIR:

The undersigned have been appointed, at a meeting of Botanists of the Experiment Stations, a committee to call your attention to the desirability of urging upon officers of the stations that they send to the coming annual meeting of the Association of Colleges and Stations representatives of their working corps. We further wish to suggest that, in our opinion, such a gathering of the station workers would result in great good and that the stations might well defray all necessary expenses.

May we not suggest that you urge this matter upon station officers?

(Signed:) CHARLES E. BESSEY,
S. T. MAYNARD,
T. J. BURRILL,
Committee.

These and other indications point to the growing necessity for meetings of station specialists for consultation. The chief difficulty in the way is the expense, but it is a fair question whether the stations may not wisely devote a reasonable portion of their funds to defraying the expenses of other members of the working staffs, as well as directors, to attend meetings of workers in similar lines.

Permit us therefore to call your attention to the importance of this matter and to express the hope that your Station may find it practicable to facilitate the attendance of members of its staff at the session of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, in Washington, November 12, 1889.

Respectfully,

W. O. ATWATER,
Director.

Approved:
EDWIN WILLITS,
Assistant Secretary.